Assistance to Kerala

4281. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the total rice, sugar, wheat and kerosene supplied through PDS in Kerala from the Central quota since 1996-97 to 1999-2000;

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government to assist the existing PDS system in the State; and

(c) Whether the Central Government would give assistance to ensure the statutory Ration system prevailingly in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Central allocation of rice, sugar, wheat and kerosene made to Government of Kerala through PDS since 1996-97 to 1999-2000 is as under :

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Sugar	Wheat	Kerosene
1996-1997	1847.00	160.564	572.50	279.701
1997-1998	1827.36	157.490	389.04	289.540
1998-1999	1788.81	152.016	483.02	300.006
1999-2000	1743.84	156.840	452.64	302.078

(b) and (c) Government has been making large allocations to Kerala keeping in view the deficit production of foodgrains in the State. This has been taken into account during the past allocations as well. Government of India has doubled the allocation of foodgrains to families living below poverty line (BPL) from 10 kg. to 20 kg/per family per month w.e.f. 1-4-2000. At the same time the allocation for families living above poverty line (APL) has been retained at the same level which was allotted at the time of introduction of TPDS. Thus a quantity of 163.39 thousand tonnes (30.70 BPL + 132.69 APL) of foodgrains is being allocated every month to Government of Kerala w.e.f. 1-4-2000. It has also been decided that in case any State/UT demands any additional quantity

of wheat or rice over and above their normal monthly allocation, it will be allotted at Economic Cost.

In case of sugar, monthly quota has been revised from March, 2000 and allocations are being made on the basis of projected population as on 1-3-1999 which works out to 13592 MT for Kerala.

Allocations of kerosene is made on historical basis i.e., past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. Possible increase is given, out of additional availability at country level, in accordance with a formula, under which higher allocation out of additional quantity is given to States with lower per capita availability, so as to reduce inter-state disparity over a period of time.

Assisting States Facing Shortage of Foodgrains

4282. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the States facing shortage of foodgrains throughout the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Central Government to assist State; and

(c) Whether the Central Government would give special assistance to Kerala to continue the existing PDS system in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b), Supply of foodgrains through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is only supplemental to the open market availability in the country. No reports have been received about States/UTs facing shortage of food grains for TPDS. There is no shortage of food grains in the central pool for TPDS requirement throughout the country. The stock of wheat and rice as on 1-4-2000 in the central pool was 131 lakh tonnes and 149 lakh tonnes respectively which is in excess to the tune of 91 lakh tonnes in case of wheat and 31 lakh tonnes in case of rice against the prescribed buffer stock level for that date. The allocations of rice and wheat are made to the states/UTs for TPDS regularly.

(c) No, Sir. However, Kerala being a food deficit State, large allocation of food grains have been made in the past and the same is still maintained. The